Minimum Nuclear Deterrence

1763. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:
SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:
SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United States of America has urged India to spell out her need for minimum nuclear deterrence;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the U.S.A. is pressing Pakistan also for declaring her minimum nuclear deterrence; and

(d) the stand of the Government in relation thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) India has declared that it shall maintain a minimum credible nuclear deterrent. The US and other interlocutors on nuclear issues have requested an elaboration of our concept of such a nuclear deterrent.

(c) Yes Sir. Government have seen press reports and US statements to this effect.

(d) Government has conveyed that India's approach is not derived from Cold War doctrines and is based on our own assessments. India is not engaged in an arms race. India's minimum deterrent can not be elaborated in terms of a fixed quantification; it is a policy approach dictated and determined in the context of our security environment. Government have also conveyed thal matters relating to defence postures are sovereign func tions and, therefore, not subjects to negotiations.

Seventh Round of Indo-US Talks

1764. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of the seventh round of Indo-US talks between the US Deputy Secretary of States Mr. Strobe Talbott and Indian Foreign Minister; and

(b) how far US and other P-5 countries are nearer to withdrawing sanctions?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The recently held talks with the United States in New Delhi from 29-31 January, 1999 were in continuation of the dialogue initiated in June, 1998. After several rounds, the talks had narrowed and now focussed on the four issues namely, CTBT, FMCT, Export Controls and Defence Posture.

As in earlier meetings, the security perspectives of the two sides were further clarified with a view to harmonising respective perspectives. Both sides have recognised that the purpose of the talks is to lay the foundation of a broad-based relationship between India and the United States. A joint statement was issued on January 31, 1999 at the conclusion of this round, wherein both sides expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the talks. The text of the Statement is attached.

It has been decided that Indian-US expert level teams will meet in March for follow-up talks on export controls. The leaders of the delegations will also remain in contact. While these talks continue, both sides will endeavour to create a positive atmosphere for advancing their relations.

(b) The US imposed restrictive economic measures on India under the Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Act 1994 (NPPA), popularly known as the Glenn Amendment on May 13, 1998.

In the Guidelines defining the scope of "sanctions" on June 18, 1998, one relaxa-